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ABSTRACT

Family MAASAI is a multiservice substance abuse prevention and intervention program for African American at-risk urban youth. The program commemorates the Maasai people of Africa and uses MAASAI as an acronym that stands for Maintaining African American Survival, Achievement, and Integrity. Cultural awareness, pride, and respect for self, elders, peers, and property are taught through a rites of passage component. The services component is holistic in design and provides group and individual counseling, vocational and career exploration, delinquency prevention, educational and tutorial services, and field trips. These services are provided by a professional staff that includes administrators, a drug and alcohol counselor, a social worker, teen youth workers, a homemaker, teachers, and a variety of consultants. Parent meetings and activities are an important part of the program. Students in an inner city community in Atlanta (Georgia) are referred to the program by the schools, the juvenile justice system, community service agencies, and parents, or they walk in to participate. Participants are expected to attend the after-school program daily. This manual contains the information necessary to conduct the MAASAI Program, including operational details and the rites of passage curriculum, with its units on African American history. A section discusses evaluations of the program and various outcome measures used over the 5 years of program operation. The program typically served 30 to 40 students aged 8 to 14 years each year. Evaluation findings demonstrated that the program was beneficial for this high-risk population. Five appendixes contain descriptions of the jobs of program staff, the office protocol, test and evaluation information, forms used in the program, and resource information, including bibliographies of 50 references on African American history and 81 works on the African American male. (SLD)

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